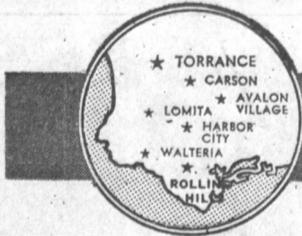


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IS CITY FINANCING COUNCILMEN? MAYOR ASKS IN WATER LINE PROBE

School Board Seeks 50c Tax Override

By Harry L. Lechtman

Taxes, like death, are something every voter and every property owner eventually must face. This fall, Torrance voters—all 38,971 of them registered—will be asked to give the Torrance School Board a 50 cent tax "over-ride."

Behind this request of the voters stand a school board and superintendent struggling with the problem of planning for an exploding young population, a council viewing a city which has tripled its citizenry in a decade, and civic planners who search for a balance between industry and housing.

The lines are drawn and collars simmer. Oct. 11 is the day of decision.

On the one hand, the school board superintendent stoutly maintains "we must plan for the future." On the other side it is the mayor's opinion, echoed by members of the Planning Commission, that these tax over-rides do not have a time limit once approved, they go on "ad infinitum." They want more facts.

The voters will judge. A 51 per cent of the people voting "yes" will carry the issue.

Superintendent John H. Hull, the first school superintendent hired by Torrance, on the job for the past twelve years, says the over-ride tax is necessary, for inflation has raised the cost of "everything from erasers to hiring teachers."

Increased enrollment, cost of educating youngsters, less state aid, and the building of new homes at a record rate necessitate this demand, Hull says.

"We have 25,000 children who will be in school this fall. We have 1000 teachers and 450 classified employees whom we gave a 5 per cent across-the-board raise recently. At the July 2 board meeting we set a \$5000 salary minimum for elementary teachers, and we have more than 40 vacancies to fill. We are using our reserve fund this year, and we are going for broke because we don't want left-over teachers," Hull declares.

Torrance's birth rate, 37 per 1000 population, is the highest in Los Angeles County, Hull points out. Inglewood rates 18 per 1000; Glendale, 17; 22 for the overall county and 24 per 1000 throughout the state. Torrance has a sound educational program, Hull declares, "but good education costs money, and it cost more every year."

"We have a record of not using money we don't need. Unless some new kind of financing comes from the federal government or the state, we will have to go back to the people for more money," Hull maintains.

City Manager George Stevens, whose length of tenure in Torrance matches Hull's, says the overall budget for the city of Torrance is \$7,101,000, as compared with the school board's budget of \$11,484,000.

The present tax rate in Torrance of \$1.28 per \$100 assessed valuation is lower than Los Angeles, which is close to \$2, Stevens explains. "We have not expanded greatly in many areas," Stevens says, hence "we have a low bondedness. We are a young community with the average age 25.4 and 3.6 people in each dwelling, meanwhile our population keeps growing, and we must plan for it."

It is not uncommon for the school tax rate to be higher than a city's, Stevens declares, pointing out most cit-

ies' school districts have a \$3 tax rate.

"We grew too fast," says Stevens. "We jumped from 14,000 to 100,000 in 12 years. We had to provide firemen and policemen, pave streets, and bring in water mains. We had to scrape. Our next stage is cultural development."

Burt Lynn, president of the Planning Commission, finds himself in direct opposition to Hull's forthcoming request for a tax over-ride.

"We don't need a fifth high school. The school board's

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THE STORK, greeted here by Beth Figredo, is a busy bird in Torrance, with 37 per 1000 population making the city's birth rate one of the highest in the state, and contributing to the school district's expansion problem. In 13 years, the number of Torrance schools has soared from 5 to 33, with more to come.



DR. J. H. HULL
School Superintendent

Bicycling Kids Suffer Injuries

Two young brothers, Thursday and a 13-year-old lad, Friday, all out bicycling, suffered injuries as a result of colliding with motorists in Torrance.

Bobby Neufeld, 11, and his brother, Roger, 8, 4508 Torrance Blvd., riding double, received cuts and bruises when they were hit by pickup truck-driver Vernon L. Smith, 29, of 22006 Linda Dr., at Torrance Blvd. and Anza Ave. The boys were taken to Little Company of Mary Hospital. Roger was released. Police said Bobby suffered a possible skull fracture.

Thirteen year old Norman Kumai, 16813 Yukon Ave., was hit by Michael Bernard Wilhite, 20, 3729 W. 171, Torrance, at Faysmith and 168 St.

The boy swerved from right to left in the path of postal carrier Wilhite's 1957 Ford. Kumai was taken to Gardena Hospital, where his thigh was placed in a cast.



BERT LYNN
Planning Commissioner

Founders Day Marks Torrance Hospital's 35th Anniversary

Torrance Memorial Hospital will observe its Thirty-Fifth Founders Day, Wednesday, Aug. 3rd.

This date was selected by the 1926 Board of Directors of the Torrance Hospital Association a year after the opening of the hospital as a tribute to Jared Sydney Torrance, founder of the Memorial Hospital.

Torrance, whose birthday was Aug. 3, died before his dream of building a community hospital could be fully realized, but not before he had formed the association and laid the legal groundwork for the beginning of the hospital itself. Heirs to the Torrance estate, led by his widow, carried through the plans which had been formulated by Torrance prior to his death. After the site had been purchased and the building built, the entire hospital was deeded to the Torrance Hospital Association which has operated it for the past 35 years as a community owned, non-profit hospital in accordance with Torrance's wishes.

The Thirty-Fifth Founders Day will be commemorated by a luncheon which will be held in the Conference Room of the hospital. Guests will be Albert Isen, mayor of the city, whose father was a member of the original board of directors, R. R. Smith, only surviving member of the original board, and Miss Esther Maxwell, first superintendent of the hospital. Leonard A. Ensminger, administrator of the Torrance Memorial Hospital will host the event.

Invited are members of the board of directors of the Torrance Hospital Association, the governing body of the hospital including Henry W. Creeger, president; Judge Donald Armstrong; John W. Beeman, M.D.; Eugene L. Cook, M.D.; Mrs. Charles A. Curtiss; and Mrs. Paul Lorange.

Mrs. John B. Melville, C. Nelson Rucker, Mervin Schwab, Dean L. Sears, A. E. Thompson, Mrs. Grover Whyte, Howard A. Wood, M.D., and Mrs. Boris Woolley are invited.

Also present will be Mrs. Henry F. Heinlein, president of the Torrance Memorial Hospital Auxiliary; Frank Cooper, assistant administrator; and Donald Findlay, close friend of Jared Sydney Torrance who assisted in selecting the site upon which the hospital was built.

Council Sells Parking Meters

After having put city parking meters on the market for sale for \$15 apiece, the City Council accepted an offer of \$10,000 for the 750 meters offered Tuesday night.

Spotlight Focused on Preferential Treatment

Four thousand dollars are more than a mink coat, a deep freeze or hotel weekends in Boston, but when a former city councilman apparently gets away without depositing this full amount for an extended water main, Torrance Mayor Albert Isen wants the City Council to investigate.

Every builder or owner must make a deposit with the city for extending water lines, Isen declared.

Robert Jahn, 23315 Arlington Ave., who was defeated for reelection to the city council last April 12, by George Vico, apparently was able to get away without depositing the full amount required for the water main extension from the city lines.

A building contractor, Jahn went to Angus McVicar, Torrance water superintendent, and allegedly obtained credit for the extended water line for a 20-unit building he was constructing on 233rd and Arlington.

The construction was for City Councilman Willis Blount, 1444 El Prado.

Jahn, who subsequently declared both corporate and individual bankruptcy in May of this year, stated today he had made a \$1000 deposit at the time to McVicar's office. In a statement to the Torrance Press today, Jahn declared:

"An apparent effort is being made to discredit some city officials. The peculiar part of the attempt is that it is directed against the Superintendent of the municipal water department, by a representative of a private water company, this same company having had several recent controversies with the city of Torrance.

"I say this attack is on a city official who is innocently caught in a web of circumstances, over which he had no control. Since this has been brought to the attention of the public, both sides of the incident should have a full airing.

"To my knowledge the superintendent of the water department gave me no special favors. Many precedents have been set in exactly the same circumstances.

"Main line extensions were put in, the exact cost not



ROBERT JAHN
Former Councilman

known because of other underground lines being in the way, etc.

"A deposit put up to guarantee payment with full billing to come upon completion of the water line.

"This was done. No one had knowledge that Jahn Construction Co. would face several disasters and be forced to take bankruptcy.

"On July 15, 1960 I wrote a letter of intention to the city manager to inform the City

of Torrance that I, personally, would make good any deficit in the account as soon as legally possible after the disposition of my assets by the federal courts.

"I do wish to thank Mayor Isen in demanding there be a full report.

"I further, however, resent the insidious attack by one so uniformed as Councilman George Vico."

One of the disasters Jahn refers to was the death of Hampton Wentworth, former president of Longren Aircraft, one of Jahn's financial backers, who was killed flying Jahn's plane in February, 1960.

Faced with the question of extending credit to the former city councilman, Water Superintendent McVicker replied "Jahn gave us \$1000 and said he would pay the rest. We were trying to get many main extensions in this area. We had no reason to believe Jahn would not cover the necessary amount. The rest of the extension will have to be collected as more people come in."

"In effect, Jahn still owes the city \$3000," McVicker declared. "It is the usual practice for initial contractor or builder to make a full deposit for water main extension; and as people tie in, the contractor is reimbursed on a pro-rata basis," Vicker said.

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Local Man Fights City Hall—Wins

This is a story of a man named Smith—who fought City Hall—and won.

Rubbish is not only a smelly business, and a headache for Torrance city officials, but charges for rubbish collection are "inconsistent and full of discrepancies."

This was pointed out this week by Torrance insurance man, Jack Smith, 1715 Carbrillo Ave. A resident in Torrance for the past quarter century and in business at

his current address for seven years, Smith was walloped with a \$58 bill from the city recently. He had received no bill whatsoever for the past two years.

Understandably irate, Smith called the city hall seeking the "how come" of this bill. He was referred to the finance department. The city's sole account collector, Bill Manis, who shags down bills owed the city, from accidents destroying city property, to franchises to rubbish, checked in with Smith. He demanded the full \$58 or he would "see Smith in court."

Mild-mannered, 5 foot 4 inch Smith blew his top. He went down to City Hall, discovered that the city has been in the rubbish collection business since October 1957; that charges begin with \$1 per month for the first 40 gallons collected weekly. Over 40 gallons, customers are charged 50 cents for each additional 40 gallons.

Smith also learned that many small businessmen, and merchants in Torrance are billed \$1, \$2 or \$3 each month, whether they carry out one wastebasket with discarded junk mail or a half dozen cans.

Smith yelled "bloody thunder." Upshot: Torrance's civic employees' usual courtesy came to the fore. This week, Smith received an adjustment, reducing his bill to the minimum rate of \$1. His \$58 bill became \$21, a \$37 saving "which any businessman can use," Smith allowed.

Torrance, which dumps its locally collected rubbish at the city dump, north of Torrance Blvd., averages 20 complaints a month on rubbish billing.

"It may be rubbish, but even junk makes money," city officials shrug. Meanwhile, one man named Smith made a point—you CAN fight City Hall—and win.



CITIZEN SMITH proves you can fight City Hall and WIN. Faced with a rubbish collection bill he did not consider fair, or even "warmer," Smith tracked the bill to its source, and got satisfaction. "It can be done," claims Smith.



SAFETY FIRST—Marshall Chamberlain, Municipal Bus Lines superintendent (left to right) Ed Reilly, safety engineer for Transit Casualty Company, and Clayton Gage, bus

driver, try out the Safe-T-Coach, testing instrument of the insurance company destined to evaluate the ability of drivers.